



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 27, 2014

Superintendent Maurice O. Green  
Guilford County Schools  
712 North Eugene Street  
Greensboro, NC 27401

Dear Superintendent Green:

I am writing in response to Guilford County School's (GCS) request to amend its approved Race to the Top - District grant project. Starting September 6, 2013 GCS submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education (Department) staff in the Implementation and Support Unit (ISU) to support the amendment request. On March 27, 2013, the Department provided the "Scope of Work Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to grantee Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied during the Race to the Top- District scope of work review process. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department has applied the conditions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top – District Principles, which are also included in that document.

I approve the following amendments:

- Revise the amount provided in stipends for teachers and principals, and increase the number of teachers involved in the Personalized Achievement, Curriculum and Environment (PACE) project grant. GCS would like to retain past district standard and practice for stipends and therefore will allocate \$100 for teachers rather than \$200 as originally proposed for both teachers and principals. Additionally, because principals are 12 month employees, the district practice is to not pay principals stipends. Further, GCS will now include \$100 stipends to Curriculum Facilitators, for their additional work of seven days both with the Boot Camp and during the school year, and Media Specialists, for their additional work of two days either during the summer or school year. The funds for stipends for teachers, Curriculum Facilitators, and Media Specialists were initially calculated as 25 percent from Supplies, and 75 percent from Contractual. These funds are now moved to the Training Stipends line item of the budget, and are calculated to be \$1,701,100 in total. The \$250,069.70 cost savings from this are being moved to Contractual and will be further described in a future amendment.
- Include the amount that accrues in Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax and Retirement when staff members receive a stipend for staff development. This cost was not calculated in the original PACE budget. The total cost for FICA and Retirement for the life of the grant is \$379,855.63 and is moved to Other.
- Adjust the number of teacher training days from five days during the summer to three days during the summer and two days during the school year. This change will allow for schools to have greater flexibility to define training dates for their site. This change does not have an impact on the budget.

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- Reallocate \$492,390 within Supplies and Contractual to provide transportation for students to the PACE Summer Boot Camp. In their application, GCS did not account for student transportation needs related to the PACE Summer Boot Camp. These additional funds will come from other cost savings within Supplies and Contractual described in this letter.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in your LEA's performance measures and outcomes, nor will it substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendments.

Although these amendments do not involve the status of the devices involved in the PACE project, the Department is currently working with GCS on an amendment involving GCS' strategy surrounding personalized learning during school year 2013-2014, and budget adjustments relevant to the devices and their accessories.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top-District, please do not hesitate to contact Guilford County School's Race to the Top-District Program Officer, Rachel Provencher, at 202-453-6404 or Rachel.Provencher@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen  
Director, Policy and Program Implementation  
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Terrence Young, Chief Information Officer  
Jocelyn Becoats, Chief Curriculum and Organizational Development Officer